

# **Minnesota Environmental Quality Board**

## **Public Information Meeting**

**On**

**Application by G. McNeilus Wind, LLC**

**For a**

**Large Wind Energy Conversion System**

**To be Built in Dodge County**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board will hold a public information meeting on a proposal by G. McNeilus Wind, LLC, to build up to a 18.2 Megawatt (MW) Large Wind Energy Conversion System in Dodge County.

### **Public Information Meeting**

The public meeting will take place at 7:30 p.m. on August 12, 2004, at the Ashland Township Hall, 18944 660<sup>th</sup> Street, Dodge Center, MN. Staff of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board and representatives of G. McNeilus Wind, LLC, will be present at the meeting to describe the project and answer questions.

### **Project Information**

The proposed project will consist of 11 NEG Micon NM72C 1.5 Megawatt or NM82 1.65 Megawatt wind turbine generators and associated facilities. The total nameplate capacity of the Project is 16.5 to 18.2 MW, depending on the selected turbine rating. The wind turbine generators will be mounted on freestanding tubular towers. The towers will be 70 to 80 meters (m) high (230 to 262 feet) at hub height. The blade length is 35 to 40 meters (114 to 131 feet) and the rotor diameter (RD) is 72 to 82 meters (236 to 269 feet). The total turbine height is 105 to 120 meters (345 to 394 feet). Other components of the project include pad-mounted transformers, class 5 gravel access roads, underground electric energy collection system, and communication cables. G. McNeilus Wind, LLC, is proposing to place the 34.5 kV feeder lines underground. The feeder lines will deliver the electric energy to GM LLC Substation in Dodge Center.

### **Proposed Location**

As shown on the accompanying map, the proposed project is located in Ashland Township in Dodge County.

### **Public Comments**

The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board has prepared a draft site permit for the project. A copy of the draft permit will be available for review at the public meeting. A copy is also available on the EQB's web page at:

<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=7366>

Interested persons may comment on the draft permit at the public meeting, or may submit written comments by September 1, 2004. Comments must be submitted to **Larry Hartman, 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155; Tel: 651-296-5089 or 1-800-657-3794; Fax: 651-296-3698; e-mail: [larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)**

### **Public Advisor**

The EQB has designated David Birkholz as public advisor to assist and advise citizens on how to participate in the site permit process. He can be contacted at: Tel: 651-296-2878 or e-mail: [david.birkholz@state.mn.us](mailto:david.birkholz@state.mn.us) and at the EQB mailing address.

### **Request**

Any person may request a contested case hearing on a site permit application for a large wind energy conversion system project. All contested case hearing requests must be filed with Larry Hartman (address above) in writing by 4:30 p.m. on September 1, 2004. The person requesting the public hearing must list the issues to be addressed at the hearing and the reasons why a hearing is required to resolve those issues. The EQB Chair has the authority to order a contested case hearing if the chair finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the holding of the hearing will aid the EQB in making a final decision on the permit application. The chair may refer the request for a contested case hearing to the Board for a determination.

### **EQB Site Permit Review Process**

G. McNeilus Wind, LLC, filed a site permit application for a 16.5 to 18.2 MW LWECS project in April 2004, which the EQB Chair accepted on June 10, 2004. A draft site permit was made available for review on July 28, 2004.

The EQB will review the G. McNeilus Wind, LLC, site permit application for the proposed LWECS project under the Wind Siting Act (Minnesota Statutes, sections 116C.691 - 116C.697) and the EQB's Wind Siting Rules, Chapter 4401.

Upon completion of the review requirements, the chair will bring the record of this matter to the Board for a final decision.

### **Project Background Information**

Copies of the G. McNeilus Wind, LLC site permit application have been distributed to affected landowners, and township, county and state officials. Copies of the application are available for review at the Auditor's Office in Dodge County, and the city office at Dodge Center. Copies of the EQB's Wind Siting Rules and the draft site permit are available for review at the places identified above. All documents are available on the EQB Web site at: <http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=7366>

